

## SERVICE PROVIDER SYSTEM

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method and system for providing storage  
5 service functions to customer's based on the number of users and/or capacity of storage  
use for each service function. In an exemplary embodiment the storage system has a  
licensing system that has a predetermined maximum number of users and/or storage  
capacities for each service function provided. Each storage device in this embodiment has  
10 a licensing function that keeps track of users and capacity for each storage function for  
that device. The charge to the service provider by the vender is dependant upon the  
values chosen for the maximum number of users and/or total capacity used by each  
service function.

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